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Message Text

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64
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 CU-02 AID-05

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R 121822Z JAN 76
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6537
INFO USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 0225

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, CI
SUBJECT: REVERBERATIONS OF UNIVERSITY PURGE

REF: SANTIAGO 0102

1. SUMMARY: FORCED RESIGNATIONS OF UNIVERSITY OF CHILE PERSONNEL PROVOKE LOCAL OPPOSITION. UCLA OFFICIAL PREDICTS THAT UCLA-UNIVERSITY OF CHILE CONVENIO WILL BE ABROGATED BY UCLA. END SUMMARY

2. AS DIMENSIONS OF WIDESPREAD SACKING OF TOP UNIVERSITY OF CHILE PERSONNEL BECOME CLEARER, DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN REVERBERATIONS ARE BEGINNING TO BE FELT.

3. LOCALLY, MANY OF THE PRINCIPAL PERSONALITIES INVOLVED HAVE SIGNED A LETTER, PUBLISHED IN EL MERCURIO JANUARY 10, SUPPORTING AN EARLIER ARTICLE BY PROFESSOR JORGE MILLAS, THE KEY PHRASING OF WHICH WAS TO THE EFFECT THAT A POLICED (VIGILADA) UNIVERSITY WAS AS BAD AS A (POLITICALLY) COMPROMISED UNIVERSITY. ON JANUARY 11, EL MERCURIO CARRIED A LONG ARTICLE BY EXTREME RIGHTIST PABLO RODRIGUEZ GREZ MAKING IT PERFECTLY CLEAR THAT FIRINGS HAD BEEN UNDERTAKEN FOR PURPOSES FAR BROADER THAN BUDGETARY ECONOMY. ASSERTING THAT THE IDEA OF A "MASS UNIVERSITY" -- ROUGHLY EQUIVALENT TO OUR OPEN
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ADMISSIONS SYSTEM -- WAS A MARXIST-INSPIRED CONCEPT, RODRIGUEZ

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STRESSED THE NECESSITY OF PURING THE UNIVERSITY OF ALL
HARMFUL POLITICAL DOCTRINE, ACTIVE OR LATENT. SAME ISSUE
OF EL MERCURIO CARRIED A CAUTIOUS BUT UNMISTAKABLY DISAPPROVING
EDITORIAL LAMENTING ANY DAMAGE TO INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM AND
TO THE UNIVERSITY'S NATIONAL ROLE.

4. ON JANUARY 11 DR. ELWIN SVENSON, VICE CHANCELLOR FOR
INSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS OF UCLA, CALLED ON AMBASSADOR TO
DISCUSS SITUATION. (SVENSON'S VISIT TO SANTIAGO HAD BEEN PLANNED
BEFORE THE UNIVERSITY PROBLEM AROSE.) SVENSON EXPRESSED DEEP
CONCERN OVER WHAT HAD HAPPENED AND SAID -- SUBJECT TO ANY
JUSTIFICATION HE MIGHT RECEIVE FROM NEW CHILEAN UNIVERSITY
AUTHORITIES HE WILL BE SEEING IN NEXT DAY OR TWO -- HE
INTENDS TO REPORT BACK TO UCLA POLICY BOARD IN SENSE WHICH
HE BELIEVES WILL RESULT IN ABROGRATION OF THE IMPORTANT AND
LONG-STANDING CONVENIO BETWEEN UCLA AND THE UNIVERSITY OF
CHILE. SVENSON WILL DISCUSS MATTER WITH RICHARD DYE OF FORD
FOUNDATION, WHO WILL BE IN SANTIAGO JANUARY 13; FORD FOUNDATION
PROVIDED FUNDS FOR CONVENIO.

5. WHILE CONVENIO HAD REACHED TERMINATION DATE IN MID-1975,
AND ACTIVITIES UNDER IT WERE BEING PHASED DOWN, A DEMONSTRATIVE

MOVE TO TERMINATE ALL CONVENIO-RELATED ACTIVITES WILL STRIKE
HOME HERE. SHOULD IT OCCUR, EMBASSY MAY BECOME INVOLVED IN
RESIDUAL CONCERN RE TITLE TO USE OF APARTMENTS AND AUTO-
MOBILES WHICH HAVE BEEN AVAILABLE TO US EDUCATORS WORKING
IN CHILE UNDER THE CONVENIO.

6. SVENSON STATES UCLA WILL CONTINUE TO ASSIST INDIVIDUAL,
DESERVING CHILEAN SCHOLARS. WE OURSELVES WILL BE ALERT TO THE
POSSIBILITY OF ASSISTANCE FROM NON-GOVERNMENTAL US INSTITUTIONS,
SUCH AS UNIVERSITIES AND FOUNDATIONS, SHOULD ANY OF THE
DISCHARGED SCHOLARS PRESENT THEMSELVES AS HARDSHIP CASES.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: UNIVERSITIES, PERSONNEL RESIGNATIONS, REMOVAL FROM OFFICE, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976SANTIA00225
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760012-0489
From: SANTIAGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760165/aaaacghe.tel
Line Count: 96
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 SANTIAGO 102
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 JUL 2004 by coburnhl>; APPROVED <14 JUL 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REVERBERATIONS OF UNIVERSITY PURGE
TAGS: PINT, CI
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006